

FROM TWO ISLANDS

Comes Interesting Correspondence of the Intelligencer

THE PORTO RICAN PEOPLE'S

Customs Described by a Martin's Ferry man who Recently Went to the new Colony Seeking Opportunities—The Natives have the Spanish Characteristic of Treachery—Doings of the Immunes at Manzanillo.

This morning the Intelligencer prints interesting letters of correspondence from two of the West Indies islands, Cuba and Porto Rico. Writing from Ponce, Porto Rico, Mr. Ross D. Robinson, formerly the Intelligencer's representative at Martin's Ferry, who went there several months ago in search of opportunities for success in life, writes of the customs of the Porto Rican people, and it will be noted that he does not make out these children of Spain a very desirable population; their principal characteristics, he says, are vindictiveness and treachery. From Manzanillo, Cuba, Private Ben. S. Honecker, of the Wheeling company of the Fourth Immunes, writes another of his interesting and newsy letters, dealing mainly with the boys of Company G, who have thousands of friends in this city.

PONCE, PUERTO RICO, Dec. 4.—Since our arrival, my time has been so taken up in pleasure seeking and sight-seeing, (and truly there are many curious sights to be seen in this new territory of the United States), that I have scarcely found time to write to the "old folks at home." I suppose one of the most, if not the most curious, sights to be seen here is the people, their dress and form of living. The people are small, very dark, large black eyes set well into their heads, very small nose and mouth, and black curly hair. They are very lazy and consequently very poor.

The Porto Ricans do what little work they accomplish early in the morning and late in the evening, and confine themselves to the shade during the hottest hours of the day, and give a wide berth to the Americans who prefer to make hay while the sun shines. No wages are paid for labor and they do not feel justified in working for their health. In the cane fields they work from sun up until sun down for thirty Spanish centavos a day or a little less than twenty cents in American money; and board themselves, which is entirely upon fruit in many instances. The United States government pays them as laborers, seventy-five cents a day, about double what they are actually worth. They are very treacherous, it is said, more so than the Indian. If you hurt or offend one of them, he will never be satisfied until he has been avenged and that with his knife. If in trouble with them you will find no square dealing, for they are cowards and will take any unfair advantage of you. On the other hand if they are your friends they will stay with you to the last. There are no true friends, if friends, than the Porto Ricans.

Little can be said of their dress. They do not think that clothing adds anything to their beauty and consequently nature is unadorned until they are well up in years, and as it requires more or less exertion to dress and undress daily, they are absolutely opposed to it. Their clothing, which fits them loosely, is made of a very thin material manufactured in Spain and France. The same kind of material is used for clothing both sexes.

The form of living of these people is very peculiar, and it has often been said they exist, not live. Their homes are small wooden constructions, in size about ten feet square, consisting of but one room which is covered with the leaves of the sugar cane, which serves as a roof. Upon entering these houses you find no beds or chairs and nothing but a few boxes containing food and clothing. The houses are used only at night as a place of rest, the cooking, etc., being done outside. When a person can afford to have a bed in his home, he is looked upon by his fellow-men as being wealthy or at least, "well to do." They have but one cooked meal a day, called dinner, served at 7 o'clock in the evening, and have nothing to eat in the morning lunch, consisting of bread and coffee, is served at noon. They are great meat eaters and all their daily dishes, such as custards, puddings, pies and cakes contain meat. Fully one-half of their food is fruit which is to be had the entire year.

ROSS D. ROBINSON.

MANZANILLO, CUBA, PROVINCE SANTIAGO DE CUBA, Dec. 6.—The Merritt Wrecking Company has succeeded in raising one of the Spanish granboats, which was sunk here during the fight with Watson's mosquito fleet. It is in fairly good condition and will be repaired and patched up. This boat is said to have been the finest granboats the Spanish had.

A part of the Cuban army is still encamped fifteen miles from the city. They come to town riding on small ponies and carrying carbines and revolvers, but they are not given rations, as rations are not issued to armed men.

Five members of our regiment have died since we have been here, and the death of three has been caused by drinking rum, so the doctors say. If this be true, it ought to be a warning to drinking men in the regiment. It is said that men who drink cannot stand the climate as well as a man who does not.

A machete worn by the Cubans is a knife ranging from a foot to three feet long. It is worn by all of the men and is used for cutting wood, corn and sugar cane. If the American farmer carried his corn cutter in a leather sheath attached to a belt and had it with him wherever he went, he would look much like the Cuban. The machete was never meant for war, but was intended as a farming instrument.

Drilling has commenced and we now have twenty minutes devoted to exercise and forty minutes to the manual.

The Armour Beef Company will soon erect a cold storage plant here and supply the regiment with fresh meat.

Privates Will Smith, Snieder and the King brothers were hunting on Thanksgiving and while passing a small stream a few miles above the water, discovered a huge crocodile and four bullets had to be put into it before it was killed. The boys hauled him out and had him conveyed to camp. By actual measurement he was found to be nine and one-half feet long and weighed almost 500 pounds. The skin will be tanned and sent to Wheeling, where it will be placed on exhibition, so as to give the people a chance to see what kind of animals we have in Cuba.

Corporal Brumelle and Private Sutton have arrived and the boys were glad to see them looking so well and healthy. They were almost questioned to death by the members of Company G, who wanted to hear about friends and "the folks" at home.

Private Mike Hollis has been detailed as assistant in the kitchen, and is becoming very proficient as a cook. He will be capable of taking a position as chef cook in some large hotel when the war is over.

Privates Gallagher, Darby and

Schroyer have been released from the hospital, where they were suffering with fever.

Sergeant Bodley has in his possession a Remington carbine used by a Cuban soldier during the war. It is a very valuable relic and Bodley prizes it very highly.

Private Pemberton has been appointed janitor of our barracks and sees to everything being neat and clean.

Private "Bill" Hawkins is enjoying himself and expects to be able to speak Spanish when we get back to the states. B. S. H.

STATE LIQUOR LEAGUE.

A Circular Sent out by Wheeling Liquor Interests to Every Liquor Seller in the State—State Association Projected.

The meeting of liquor dealers next Tuesday, at Arion hall, will likely result in the organization of a state association, similar to those in other states. The movement is championed by Wheeling liquor men and retail vendors of wet goods.

One of the objects of the association will be to secure a reduction of the state license from \$250 to \$300, and also to have laws passed which will make this license payable to the county instead of the state, as the Ohio county saloon men who pay a big amount of taxation in the aggregate don't want the money utilized for the prosecution of criminals, etc., in counties which do not grant license. The following circular, sent out to all sellers of liquor in the state, explains itself:

DEAR SIR:—At a conference of representative liquor dealers held recently, the present condition of the liquor trade and the laws governing the same were thoroughly discussed, after which it was unanimously resolved to take steps to form a State Liquor Dealers' Association and a committee was appointed to make the necessary arrangements.

Many dealers throughout the state realize the necessity for united action, and recognize the need for a central organization in other states, and have expressed a desire to establish a state association in West Virginia.

The committee on arrangements has cheerfully assumed the responsibility of issuing this call to the liquor dealers of West Virginia, and request their presence at a state convention to discuss the liquor laws and for a permanent state liquor league similar to those in New York, New Jersey, Pennsylvania, Connecticut, Ohio, Maryland, Illinois, Indiana, Delaware, Virginia and other states, all of which are connected with the National Liquor Dealers' Association of the United States, which body has defeated attempts to increase the tax on whisky, on beer and on the internal revenue.

Some of the objects of the state league are (briefly stated) as follows:

First—The protection of the members against the attacks of the enemies of the trade.

Second—To protect ourselves against the enactment of unjust, oppressive and unfair laws, to secure the repeal of such laws now on the statute books of this state, and to procure such legislation to which we as good citizens and honest merchants are entitled.

Third—To secure a reduction of the present high license fee, to prevent an abnormal increase in the number of licensed stores.

Fourth—To prevent the granting of license to dive keepers and other disreputable persons.

Fifth—To obtain the greatest personal liberty consistent with the laws of the land for those engaged in the trade, and thus secure that recognition in the commercial world to which the liquor traffic is lawfully entitled, and to demand our rights as heavy tax payers and American citizens.

This society will not belong to any political party. It is to be constituted upon the broad plan of liberty and equality of rights, to be recognized as an organization of business men banded together for mutual business interests and the advancement of the liquor trade in general.

You are therefore invited to attend or send a delegation to a state convention, to be held on Tuesday, December 20, at Arion Hall, No. 500 Main street, in the city of Wheeling, W. Va.

The convention will be called to order at 1 o'clock, noon, Messrs. P. H. Nolan, national organizer; August Koehler, of New Jersey, national president; and Ed. J. Jordan, chairman of the congressional legislative committee, and others will address the convention and explain the objects of the national and state associations and the benefit to be secured from the dealers in West Virginia.

Special rates have been secured. The committee will meet visiting delegates at dinner and escort them to headquarters. Every dealer who attends will be given representation in the convention. Please reply at once, stating the number and names of those who will be present from your locality, time of arrival, etc.

PERSONAL NOTES.

Going and Coming of Wheeling People and Visitors.

H. L. Coogie, of Morgantown, is in the city.

W. A. Brast is a New Martinsville man at the Howell.

Sheriff R. G. Pyle, of Middlebourne, was a Stamm register last night.

Mrs. A. Shuman, of Glover's Gap, was a guest of the Stamm yesterday.

John W. and Warder E. Utt, of Braxton county, are visiting relatives on the island.

Miss Blanche S. Wells and Mrs. William J. Newenschwander, of Sistersville, are registered at the Windsor.

Clerk Z. T. Underwood, of the Windsor, is able to shun his portly form behind the desk again, after a severe illness.

Mrs. Ella Anderson, of Charleston, widow of the late John Anderson, is the guest of her sister-in-law, Mrs. Jane McNabb, on Twelfth street.

George H. Moffett, of Parkersburg, at one time editor of the Register, and connected with the legal department of the Ohio River railroad, was at the McLure last night.

Mr. and Mrs. J. J. Buckley, Jr., of Beverly, W. Va., are in the city to spend the holidays, and will be the guests of Mrs. Buckley's parents, Mr. and Mrs. S. R. Graver, of North Main street.

Mrs. R. A. Richardson, who represents the interests of Bethany College, is in the city. Her particular work is to secure contributions to the endowment of the Bible chair in that institution.

Hon. W. P. Brown, of Brownsville, member of the house of delegates for the Brooke-Hancock district, was a McLure guest last night. Mr. Brown's visit to Wheeling is connected with the disposal of the big apple crop with which his county was blessed this year.

TOY TRUNKS in new styles and fresh at WM. SCHWERTFEGERS, 1146 Main street.

A FINE selection of Fountain Pens at MCNAMEE'S, 1507 Market street.

COME in and see our Calendars, Finest line in the city.

ALBERT DITTMAR, 1208 Market St.

ONLY \$6.00 to Cincinnati via Ohio River R. R.

NEW and original designs in Rings, Pendants and Earrings at MCNAMEE'S, 1507 Market Street.

ONLY \$6.00 to Cincinnati via Ohio River R. R.

W. J. LUKENS, Low Price Jeweler.

Mutual SAVINGS BANK.....

1521 MARKET STREET.

Open Daily, 9 a. m. to 3 p. m. Monday and Saturday Evenings.

A growing account at 4 per cent. is better than Candy, Tobacco, or Drink.

Private Mike Hollis has been detailed as assistant in the kitchen, and is becoming very proficient as a cook. He will be capable of taking a position as chef cook in some large hotel when the war is over.

Privates Gallagher, Darby and

THE TWO TOPICS

That Attracted Most of the Attention of the Public.

WERE RIVER AND WEATHER.

Early Yesterday Morning the Ice in the River Became Gorged at two Down-River Points, Sardis and Newport, and will likely be closed here to-day—The Cold wave had not Subsided Yesterday.

There were two topics that engrossed the Wheeling public nearly to the entire exclusion of all others yesterday—the river and the weather.

As was predicted in the Intelligencer yesterday morning, the Ohio river has closed. At early hours in the morning yesterday, it closed at two down river points, Sardis and Newport, and at both places the gorges were so sildly formed that people walked across the ice. A result of these gorges will be the freezing over of the river at many places above Sardis, unless there is a speedy moderation in the weather or a considerable rise in the river. Late in the afternoon there was a small rise in progress here, but it was probably caused by the gorging of the report sent out by someone with an overdose of imagination to the effect that it had closed. At 9 o'clock the ice was moving perceptibly slower, and it seems likely that the river has closed at some point down the river nearer to Wheeling than Sardis, possibly at Buckhill Bottom, always a bad place for gorges. At that hour, rivermen anticipated that the river here would be closed this morning.

At 2 o'clock this morning the river was still open here, but the ice was passing down very slow. The Kanawha was compelled to tie up at this point yesterday. She left Pittsburgh Tuesday morning, at 11 o'clock, and after a hard fight with the low water and ice she succeeded in reaching Wheeling a midnight Tuesday night. Here it was feared the river had closed or was about to close below, and it was decided to lay up. The boat went to the bank just below the wharfboat, in a fairly snug berth.

The marks at 6 p. m. showed 5 feet 1 inch and rising slowly. Weather, clear and cold.

With the arrival of the Kanawha here yesterday morning, navigation on the upper Ohio was suspended.

The Keystone State, after a hard fight with the ice, got past Parkersburg, and has undoubtedly succeeded in reaching Cincinnati, where she tide up.

River Telegrams.

MORGANTOWN—River 8 feet and stationary. Clear and cold.

OIL CITY—River 2 feet 9 inches and stationary. Weather clear and cold.

GREENSBORO—River 7 feet 3 inches and stationary. Fair and cold. River frozen.

BROWNVILLE—River 5 feet 3 inches and falling.

PITTSBURG—River 5 feet 4 inches and stationary at the dam. Clear and cold.

STREUBENVILLE—River 4 feet 5 inches and stationary. Clear and cold.

POINT PLEASANT—River 5 feet and falling. Weather clear and cold.

CINCINNATI—River 14 feet and falling. Weather, clear and cold.

CAIRO—River 12 1/2 feet and falling. Weather, clear and colder.

LOUISVILLE—River falling; 7 feet 2 inches in the canal; 5 feet on falls; 13 feet 2 inches below locks. Weather, clear and cold.

BANSVILLE—River 12 1/2 feet and falling. Weather, clear and cold.

VERY COLD WEATHER

Continues, Though Yesterday's Was Not Equal to Thursday's.

Hour.	Temp.	Hour.	Temp.
7 a. m.	22	4 p. m.	22
8 a. m.	21	5 p. m.	21
9 a. m.	20	6 p. m.	20
10 a. m.	19	7 p. m.	19
11 a. m.	18	8 p. m.	18
Noon	19	9 p. m.	17
1 p. m.	19	10 p. m.	16
2 p. m.	19	11 p. m.	15
3 p. m.	19	Midnight	15

Yesterday's weather was decidedly frigid, though the temperature was not nearly so low last night as it was the night before. At 7 a. m. the Schnepf thermometer registered 7 degrees above zero; it had gone up to 19 at noon, and at 3 p. m. the highest temperature of the day, 22, was recorded and was maintained until 6 p. m. At midnight, 16 degrees was shown.

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